

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEARNERS IN THE SCHOOL

Educating African-American learners requires several considerations: Building upon their cultural backgrounds, utilizing the family as a resource, understanding their language, understanding their achievement levels, addressing their learning styles, and promoting their self-concept and personal identities.

CULTURAL COMPARISON

African-American and Anglo-American Children and Adolescents

African-American

Language "worthy" at home; "unworthy" at school

Not always necessary to look speaker in the eye

Seek support from larger families/ "kinship networks"

Childrearing—result of extended family

Cultural pride

Usually (but not always) lower educational attainment

Faces overt and implied racism

May interrupt speaker with encouraging remarks

Anglo-American

Language "worthy" both at home and at school

Look speaker in the eye

Seek support from smaller, more immediate family

Childrearing—result of immediate family

Individual pride

Usually (but not always) higher educational attainment

Does not face racism

Uses nods and few words to encourage speakers